



THE KEYSTONE

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Editor.

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Associate Editor.

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TO WOMAN'S WORK.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

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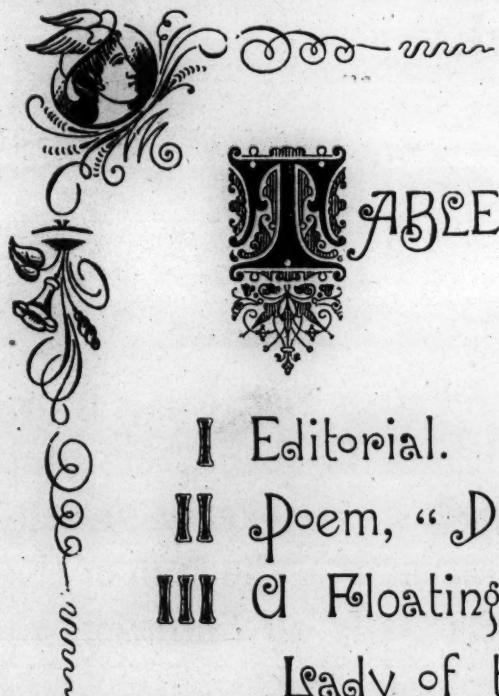
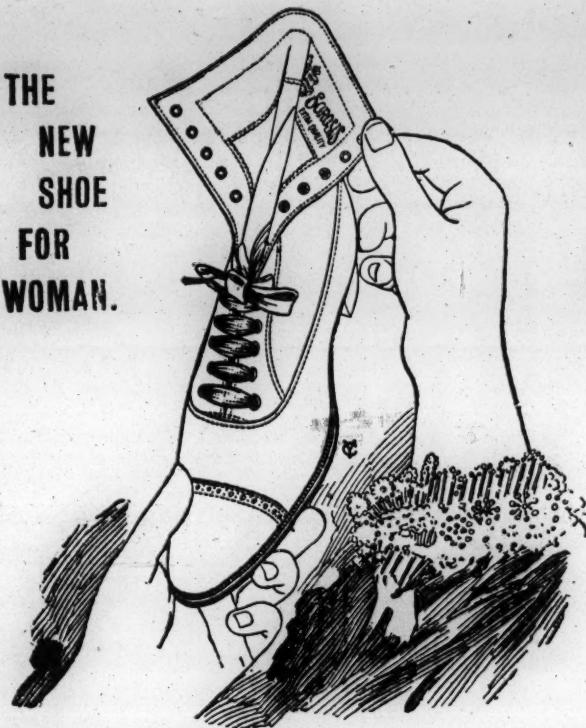


TABLE of Contents. * * *

- I Editorial.
- II Poem, "Die Einladung," by Mary Lawton Metcalfe.
- III A Floating Studio, or The Houseboat "Dragon," by The Lady of the Dragon.
- IV From Story Telling to Shakespere, by Lucy S. Coleman, of Richmond, Va.
- V A Plea for the Study of Civil Service Reform, by Miss Perkins, of Concord, Mass.
- VI Two Victims of Circumstance (Continued), by Mrs. D. M. O'Driscoll.
- VII Book Reviews, Club Notes, Etc.

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Editorial.

The Circulation of the Keystone is 2000 copies monthly.

THE KEYSTONE extends its heartiest greeting to the club women of South Carolina who are to meet in Charleston this month, and wishes for them all success in the various fields wherein their energies are directed.

Organized effort on the part of women cannot fail to produce good results, even if these results are nothing more than the training of women to co-operate with one another.

Women as a rule do not know how to work together, and in consequence of this lack of unity of purpose, much of their energy is expended in unnecessary labor.

The South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs realizes that organization economizes time and strength, and increases interest in a work, and so hope through their excellent organization to promote many good works in its State.

HERE will be no blowing of trumpets when the Carolina Club Women come to Charleston. Column after column of the newspapers will not be taken up with their "sayings and doings," but none the less will their coming be a matter of importance to our city. Only a small band of gentle-women, but they represent the flower of our land. They are not coming to hold secret conclaves, but to meet with open doors, and to talk over matters grave and potent.

You who cannot associate the name of "club woman" with aught save the ballot box, come in and see how safe it would be to turn the key in the lock, and leave it wide open to us. The South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs is too busy to take up politics; we are working upon the broadest possible lines for the culture and advancement of our community. Let those inclined to sneer or criticise pause a moment to turn back the pages of the history of our State, and view the pictures of heroic deeds, of suffering and of waiting, and be still, for among the bravest and the rarest, rank the women of South Carolina.

THE City Union of Women's Clubs of Charleston is most fortunate in securing as a speaker for the State Convention, President B. F. Wilson, of Converse College. It is most fitting that the head of the largest woman's college in South Carolina should address the club women of our State, as the college girls of to-day will eventually swell the ranks of the club women of the future.

THE Saturday Review, of Atlanta, Georgia, will no longer pose as a woman's paper. It will give a large part of its space in future to the "New Thought" movement, and promises its readers much of interest in regard to occult matters.

IN Berlin there is "The American Woman's Club," which was organized five years ago, by Mrs. M. B. Willard. It was organized after the American Girls' Club in Paris, and was at first intended for students, but now it admits all American women who are in Berlin for any length of time.

The club is open all day, and subscribes to six American magazines, one or two American newspapers, and the London Daily Standard. Every winter the Club gives at least one course of lectures, and every Saturday, from 4 to 6, there is an informal tea served in the Club rooms by American girls, resident in Berlin.

The Director, Miss S. E. Morgan, is always ready to help American women in Berlin who may need her aid. The number of the Club Room is Kleist Strasse II, Berlin W.

AMONG the attractive features of the May Keystone, will be the following:

- I. A full account of the Convention of the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs, held in Charleston, S. C.
- II. Emily Geiger, a South Carolina Heroine of the American Revolution, by Leslie Strode.
- III. Some of Charleston's most noted Schools, past and present, by M. B. W.

AT the meeting of the D. A. R. in Washington, the last week in February, the report of the Business Manager of the "American Monthly" (the D. A. R. Magazine) showed that it cost the Society \$3,500 to run their magazine in 1899. Miss Mary Lockwood was re-elected Manager, and Mrs. Avery, of Ohio was elected editor for 1900.

THE Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs meets in Birmingham, Ala., the first week in May.

THE Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs will meet in Meridian, Miss., April 17th.

THE KEYSTONE invites its readers to send an answer to the following inquiry. Club women especially are requested to respond to this request.

"What is the attraction which causes women to give themselves so enthusiastically to club work?"

Please address all answers to The Keystone, Charleston, S. C.

The Keystone is a woman's enterprise, and looks to the cultivated women of the State for its support.

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.
"Animis opibusque parati."

This department is official and will be continued monthly.
 Official news and calls of Federation Committees printed here.

List of Officers.

President, Mrs. M. W. Coleman, Seneca, S. C.
 Vice-President, Mrs. T. Sumter Means, Spartanburg, S. C.
 Recording Secretary, Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, Charleston, S. C., (31 Meeting Street.)
 Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary Hemphill, Abbeville, S. C.
 Treasurer, Miss E. J. Roach, Rock Hill, S. C.
 Auditor, Mrs. M. P. Gridley, Greenville, S. C.

Official Notice.

At the Annual Convention in Chester, "The Keystone" was adopted as the official organ of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. All clubs are urged to make use of this medium for giving publicity to all club news, as well as official news of the Federation.

Mrs. M. W. COLEMAN,
 President,
 South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

Program for the Convention of the S. C. Federation of Woman's Clubs, to be held in Charleston, April 17-21, 1900.

Entertainments.

Tuesday, April 17th—Reception by the Century Club at 179 Rutledge Avenue, 8-10 P. M.

Wednesday, April 18th—Reception by Mrs. C. P. Poppenheim 31 Meeting Street, 7-9 P. M.

Thursday, April 19th—2 P. M. Excursion to Magnolia Gardens, by the Memminger Alumnæ Association.

8.30 P. M., Lecture at the South Carolina Hall, by President B. F. Wilson, of Converse College.

Friday, April 20th—5 P. M. Excursion to the Isle of Palms, by the City Union of Women's Clubs of Charleston.

Business Sessions.

Tuesday, April 17th, 10 A M.—Meeting of the Executive Board, at 31 Meeting Street. 4 P. M., Meetings of the various Standing Committees, also Credential Committee, and Committee on the Revision of the Constitution.

Wednesday April 18th—South Carolina Hall, Meeting Street. 10 A M.—Convention called to order. Lord's Prayer. Address of welcome by Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, President of the City Union. Response by Miss Mary Hemphill, of Abbeville, S. C. President's Annual Address—Mrs M. W. Coleman, Seneca, S. C. Reports of Clubs.

4.30 P. M.—Business Session continued.

Thursday, April 19th, 10 A. M.—Business session continued, with reports from all Standing Committees.

Friday, April 20th, 10 A. M.—Business session continued. New business. Election of officers.

Local Committees.

Railroad Rates—Mrs. Jules Visanska, Chairman; Miss Phoebe Gadsden, Mrs. C. G. Matthews, Mrs. Albert Litschgi, Mrs. W. E. Renneker.

Hospitality—Mrs. Ida M. Lining, Chairman; Mrs. Felix Prendergast, Miss Lulie Wagner, Mrs. W. B. Cohen, Mrs. J. P. Sanders.

Hall—Mrs. Daniel Ravenel, Jr., Chairman; Miss Beckman, Miss L. Horlbeck, Miss McGahan, Miss E. Klinck.

Badges—Miss J. D. Robb, Chairman; Mrs. J. C. Tiedeman, Miss A. Willis, Miss E. Valk, Miss A. E. Tupper.

City Union Entertainment—Mrs. J. P. K. Bryan, Chairman; Miss M. Bruns, Miss B. Witte, Miss Daisie P. Smith, Miss Agnes Strohecker.

Ushers—Miss C. H. Poppenheim, Chairman; Miss May Waring, Miss Leila Waring, Miss Meta Sinkler, Miss Janie Johnston, Miss Henrietta Geddings, Miss Bacot, Miss Isa Paine. Miss May Paine, Miss Annie Chisolm, Miss Ella McGahan, Miss Helen Sloan, Miss May O'Neill, Miss Florence O'Neill.

Those Clubs which have not already sent in their Credential Cards, will please do so as soon as possible.

MARY B. POPPENHEIM, Chairman,
 Mrs. RICHMOND PINCKNEY,
 Miss DAISIE P. SMITH,
 Credential Committee for the Charleston Convention.

The Daughters of the Confederacy.

THE Mary Ann Bouie Chapter of Daughters of the Confederacy, of Johnson, S. C., held their regular monthly meeting February 3rd, at the home of the President. Seven were present, which number was exceptionally large, and consequently added life to the meeting, which usually is comprised of just enough to make the quorum, but even though few, and constituting the unlucky number thirteen, we are solidly rooted, and are doing our best, according to our means. We had quite a unique and novel celebration of Lee's Birthday, and are now arranging for a speaker for Memorial Day. The Monument Committee are negotiating about a suitable tomb which will, at an early date, be placed over the grave of Miss Mary Ann Bouie, for whom the Chapter is named, and whose grave lies neglected in the cemetery at Aiken, S. C., and this act on the part of these ladies should be heartily encouraged, especially those who are to-day living, and received from her kind, gratuitous hand during the war. A committee was also appointed to devise a suitable plan for the giving of a gold medal to the young lady or gentleman of the Institute graduation class for the best oration or address upon some Confederate subject. A committee was also appointed to interest the children in contributing towards the Jeff Davis Monument. Plans were suggested as to a May Day festival to be given in behalf of the Jefferson Davis Monument Fund; final arrangements will be made at the April meeting. Gen. Gordon was expected to speak for us, and a highly artistic banquet was planned for his entertainment, but the time for his coming was postponed until May. The session was a long, but interesting one, and each member present carried home something to think about and do, which is the only way to keep up an interest.

Mrs. JAMES H. WHITE, President.

"Die Einladung."

(After the German.)

Spring, the Spring has come again:
Now all who would her see,
Must haste away to woods and fen,
And roam green fields with me.

She hid her bed in forest deep,
Where we could never see;
A little bird disturbed her sleep—
It sings, "She's near the lea."

O, greet the Spring, dear Spring again,
Now make a merry lay,
For there is joy in hearts of men,
And children laugh and play.

To great and small, a gift she's brought
Of beauty, something sweet;
Flowerets all, they tell her thought
She lays them at your feet.

Then away to the fields away;
And o'er green hills we'll roam
For Spring is calling us to-day;
Ah! who can bide at home?

—MARY LAWTON METCALFE.

A Floating Studio, or The Houseboat "Dragon."

WE have daily proof that ideas move in thought waves, and become epidemics. Some time ago, we, (laughingly called the commodore and vice-commodore) were engrossed in planning the living quarters of a houseboat. There was no such craft in the waters of the resort, nor had the writer ever seen one. But an all absorbing desire took hold of us to arise and acquire a houseboat, and as many moons waxed and waned, the plans materialized and developed into the Dragon of Barnegat Bay. The launching of the Dragon was the outward sign that brought us into the thought wave, and fellowship with all the other Houseboaters; and many letters from strangers, requests for photographs, interviews with reporters and editors, soon proved that what we had mistaken for a brilliant, original idea, was but the infection of the dominant thought. Magazines and papers also helped to make clear that there is a present rage in America for houseboats.

The Houseboat itself is original, however, and unique even as a Houseboat, in that it is primarily a floating studio. But while it boasts the conveniences of the atelier, it contains all the requisites of a New York apartment.

If you see the Dragon moored out in the stream, floating a blue flag at her bow, and notice that the yacht which always lies alongside is absent, you may safely conclude that the "Dragonites" have gone down the Bay for a sail to Sea Side Park. However, if there floats a black dragon, with scarlet pennants, wave from a neighboring dock, and the captain will row over for you in the Dragon-fly. The captain sails the yacht, manages the flotilla, and does the cooking. The maid serves at table, and keeps the house ship-shape. You may board the Dragon at any of the four corners, where the railing opens with a tiny gate. You will find the studio (18x12 feet, and 7 feet head room), finished entirely in hard wood, lighted by eight windows, which not only lend an air of space, but permit a view of the beautiful waters at every turn, while lounging on the window seats, or seated at table. As a roomy studio, there is no furniture to dodge beyond these two long window seats piled with cushions, and some folding chairs. Everything else is out of the way, racks,

shelves, lockers, and everything folds up or down, or back into the hard wood panels. Perchance you find a little table with a vase of snap-dragons resting on a mat, embroidered in green and gold dragons, but you may see the maid set the vase on a shelf, and after folding up the table fit it into a panel in the wall, and fasten it there. Being of the same wood, to all appearances, it is part of the wall; you discover that symmetrically disposed there are three others, all fitted alike into the walls. If it be luncheon time, and you are joining a family party, two of these tables will be fitted together and set for the meal. If the Lady of the Dragon is entertaining, the four are brought into requisition, and when fitted together, covered with the cloth and set, they virtually form one large board, and easily accommodate twelve persons. If it be five o'clock in the afternoon, the tables are set on deck, singly, where steamer chairs and cushions add to the comfort of friends, who come aboard for a cup of Pinehurst tea. Or if you come for a game of duplicate whist in the cabin of an evening, you will find a table standing in each corner. If you are in for a cruise, you will peep into the galley, where the kettles and pans are each hung on its hook above the stove, and be interested in the dish racks, the folding table made into the wall, the cellar for refrigerator with its storage compartments, the big water barrel, etc. You discover that there is a dressing room at each end of the cabin, with porcelaine basins, dresser, linen press shelves and hooks. You explore the upper deck, which offers a magnificent view, and a promenade 32x12 feet, covered in daytime by an awning, the flower boxes giving a roof garden effect. As the twilight falls, and the flags give place to the lanterns, you may wonder where you are going to sleep. The captain and the maid satisfy this curiosity by fastening up the partitions, making state rooms according to the size of the party. We can have one in each corner, with a passage down the center of the cabin, and a social hall in the middle 12x6 feet. Each of these state rooms accommodates two persons, and when necessary, the "social hall" may be partitioned into two single state rooms, and thus easily accommodate ten persons; there is a window in each state room. You find the broad window seat of the day made into a berth; it is the regulation cot size; the red dragons embroidered on the bed linen always excite comment. From this berth you are surprised to see the maid draw a second berth, like pulling out a drawer; it is exactly the size of the other, made up as a single bed. Under this again is a larger locker for clothing, valises, etc. You discover hooks, shelves, receptacles for toilet articles, etc. You shut the moonlight out reluctantly, extinguish the little brass lantern, and fall asleep to the rippling of the in-coming tide.

If you are enterprising, you have a plunge before breakfast, and find it great sport to dive from the deck rails. If you are a good fisherman, you will find fishing tackle, crab nets, etc., in a rack on the aft deck, and you will be in your glory in this famous sporting field. As for crabs, you can catch three and four at once any time, with the net from the decks. Eels you catch by moonlight, which is more romantic than it sounds, under certain circumstances. If you wish a little exercise, and have promenaded the ninety-six feet around decks, you may jump into the Dragon-fly, and pull across the river to a cranberry bog.

A favorite jaunt is to sail down to Barnegat with the oyster rakes, and bring back an oyster supper. But are we ever happier, after all, than when sitting before an easel on the upper deck, striving to catch some fleeting gorgeous sunset?

THE LADY OF THE DRAGON.

Club Column.

MANAGER, MISS LOUISA B. POPPENHEIM, CHARLESTON, S. C.

All Clubs in the State are invited to send notes to this department which will be continued monthly.

Busy Club Women Helped.

THE KEYSTONE is prepared to furnish programs and outlines of study for clubs. For further particulars, apply to the manager of this column.

Greenville.

GOOD news is always pleasant to hear, and we feel sure that our club sisters will rejoice with the Thursday Afternoon Club of Greenville in its successful work during this year. We have had many delightful meetings, but one of the most interesting and instructive occurred on February 22nd, at the home of one of our members. The house was beautifully decorated with United States flags in honor of the day, and the subject of study was eminently appropriate, being that of Journalism. Each member responded to roll call, with a quotation either in regard to Journalism or Washington.

The subject of the first paper was "The Greatest Living Journalists." The writer selected a round dozen, most of whom were of necessity American, although Mr. A. C. Harmsworth was specially mentioned as being one of the greatest editors of the day. His paper is the London Daily Mail, modelled after the great progressive American dailies, a fact unique in conservative England.

The next paper, "American Journalism," showed the wonderful development of this great nation, including a cursory glance at the best papers in the United States, and in our own State especially.

"European Dailies" was the subject of the next paper, and here again the contrast between our own papers and those of foreign countries could not but be to our immense advantage, although due justice was done by the writer to European papers.

"Current Events" was introduced by one member, and participated in by the members of the club generally. Our hostess proved that a true club woman is also a well rounded woman, looking carefully to the ways of her household, thus showing that she cultivates not only her mind, but house-keeping as well. The refreshments were delightful, and beautifully served.

The favors were dainty bouquets of flowers, tied with the "red, white and blue."

Committees are at work on the program for next year, which will soon be completed. The new plan of study introduced this year has worked so admirably that it will be followed again. We have four committees of four each. The Literature Committee provides for the first Thursday in each month, the Science and Art Committee for the second Thursdays, the History Committee for the third Thursdays, the Miscellaneous Committee for the fourth Thursdays, while any fifth Thursday occurring is called "President's Day," and she plans the program. These committees work independently, and then have a joint meeting to complete the work. In this way we secure variety, as well as system.

A number of our club are readers of The Keystone, and it has our best wishes. We hope to send you notes from time to time of our progress.

LUCY R. HOYT.

The Inter-Collegiate's Club Of South Carolina.

ON November 14th, 1899, a meeting was called at 31 Meeting Street, to discuss the formation of a club consisting of graduates of the leading colleges for women. After some informal talk, Miss Mary Poppenheim was chosen Chairman, and Mrs. Daniel Ravel, Jr., Secretary.

The meeting was unanimously in favor of forming such a club, and after more discussion a Constitution was proposed and adopted, and officers elected for the coming year.

Miss Mary B. Poppenheim, Vassar, President, Charleston.

Miss Nellie Godard, Wellesley, Vice-President, Charleston.

Miss Mary Martin, Wellesley, Secretary, Charleston.

Mrs. D. S. Black, Vassar, Treasurer, Georgetown.

There were nine charter members, and the list is gradually growing.

The purposes of the club are purely of a social character, with the design to promote good fellowship and communion among the college graduates who may be resident in the State, either in their own homes, or in the different educational institutions as members of the faculty.

Good fellowship has been abundantly manifest in the meetings of the club, and much enthusiasm is shown for its continuance and prosperity.

NELLIE GODARD,
Correspondent to Keystone.

Lancaster.

THE Friday Afternoon Club re-elected the following officers in January:

Mrs. W. McD. Brown, President.

Mrs. L. C. Payseur, Vice-President.

Mrs. T. Y. Williams, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mrs. C. T. Connors, Corresponding Secretary.

We have a very interesting program for this year—American Literature.

Our delegates to the Convention are Mrs. Eliza Wylie and Mrs. Leroy Springs.

Wishing you success for your paper, and a pleasant and profitable meeting of the Federation.

Mrs. W. McD. BROWN.

Rock Hill.

THE Perihelion Club met with Mrs. A. E. Smith, Thursday, the 15th. The attendance was encouragingly large, as the weather was depressingly disagreeable. A matter very close to our hearts is the inauguration of a club room. We hope to have the co-operation of the other clubs, so no definite action has been taken, because second thoughts are sometimes best. We have completed for the year 1899 the study of Washington Irving's Works, and United States History. May the year 1900 be as profitably and enjoyably spent. A sketch of the life of Jefferson Davis was the conclusion of the literary program.

The meetings continue to grow in enthusiasm and interest.

Mrs. W. C. STEELE, JR.,
Corresponding Secretary.

Spartanburg.

THOSE who have heard Professor Snyder speak, never miss an opportunity of hearing him again, and so it was with a feeling of pride that the members of the Ladies Library Association invited the ladies of the city to hear his lecture on "Russian Literature," February 15th, knowing there was a treat in store.

Professor Snyder told of the changes in the character of the literature of Russia during the different periods of the history of the country. Her literature of the nineteenth century is throbbing with life—intense, real life, without an ideal, and with human hopes defeated.

The speaker contrasted the spirit of despair in Russian Literature with Shakespeare's works, picturing some of the scenes in Hamlet, Macbeth and King Lear, where human hopes seem utterly crushed, yet in the end there is a sense of victory.

In the very titles of the works of the Russian authors one hears the note of despair. "Dead Souls," "Crime and Punishment," "Degraded and Insulted," "Buried Alive," "The Idiot."

It was a beautiful discourse, delivered to an appreciative audience of cultured women.

After the lecture, a meeting of the L. L. A. was held, and the following officers elected :

President—Mrs. T. S. Means.

First Vice-President—Mrs. L. J. Blake.

Second Vice-President—Mrs. W. E. Burnett.

Third Vice-President—Mrs. J. N. Moore.

Secretary—Mrs. J. W. Allen.

Treasurer—Mrs. W. E. Fowler.

From Story Telling to Shakespere.

SHAKESPERE FOR CHILDREN.

"STORY telling like letter writing is going out of fashion," says a popular writer of to-day, and verily it seems meet we bestir ourselves to present a solid front against the "Hurry Demon" who sways this prosaic age—his especial kingdom being "the sweet land of liberty whose name we love." If the wandering minstrel has taken his departure, and King Arthur's Court is a thing of the past, we can at least make an effort to retain the story teller.

"We want a story!" that is the plea still sent up from the tot of three to the fledgling of fifteen, and it is an axiom well known to all economists that, unless the supply is made commensurate with the demand, there will still be wanting the balance to insure a perfect equilibrium. She who does not at once respond, and from some odd corner of her brain produce material done to a turn, and to suit any palate, is "Fit for treason, stratagems and spoils." Like a queen on her throne, her loyal subjects pressing round her, the least one up gathered to her lap—for has not the story teller always a capacious lap?—and now with their round eyes upon her, hot little hands snuggling into her's—the breathless suspense—she also is keyed up to the highest pitch, and she would risk veracity itself rather than fall short a hair's breadth.

"As she turns the mental pages, radiant faces peep between the words, not a single round O but serves as a picture frame for some eager childish face. The commas say, "Isn't there any more?" The interrogation points ask, "What did the boy do then?" The exclamations cry in chorus,

"What a beautiful story!" And the periods sigh, "That's all for to-day!" If she do but trip or stumble, the helping hand is promptly held out, and she is gently led back in the right path by, may be, the tiniest in the circle. These little discriminators are intuitively acquainted with all the shades of difference between good, bad and indifferent. If I should be asked the reason why, rather inquire of the lily the cause of its whiteness. God made both, and He keeps His own secrets. These are some of the blisses of the imaginative and impromptu story-builder, and oh! ye Grad-grinds, what will be your portion in the life to come who dare to hamper or meddle with the imagination fairy who whispers in the ear of God's little ones?

For the story teller there seems neither let nor hindrance; the heaviest doors swing open at her bidding, the deepest mines yield up their treasures, the most wonderful deeds are done and battles fought in the cause of right. Only one thing let her bear in mind, and steer her precious bark accordingly. Let her moral but once uncover, or be his presence even sniffed from afar, and her career is ended. The woman who said she had never cared for *Æsop's Fables* till she was tall enough to see over the moral, must have had allopathic doses in the days of her youth. We all bow then to the genuine story teller as the first lady of the land, the land that is peopled by innocence, purity and truth. For those of us who are less gifted, but having still the cardinal virtues of sympathy, willingness and love, we can still do our part in throwing open the portals of life."

I now address the patient, sweet voiced reader, next to the story teller most beloved in the children's hour. In her choice of time and subject, much depends that is for the good of her little hearers. In the domain of imagination, pure and simple, too much cannot be said in favor of Greek and Roman myths. In this connection I am minded of a charming little work known to most of the schools as 'Gods and Heroes.' In these pages we find, wonderful to relate, an unvarnished moral that is palatable, even delightful, and the implied "Go thou, and do likewise," lies as lightly on the consciousness as a fluttering rose leaf. The version here given of the story of Cupid and Psyche, or the finding of life through the valley of death, is one of the daintiest renderings of the old, old story to be found in contemporary literature. Gradually the child who has outgrown the nursery with the dear story teller and kind reader, approaches the epoch of his life. Now, the alphabet overthrown, and most of its earlier complications tamed to his use, self-reliance finds its first vent in reading for himself. He tastes of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and finds it good. Now, the intelligent mother gathers up her wisest and best for the life-time guidance of her child. How much of after life, its joys and its sorrows, depends on this first emancipation when, as it were, he goes forth to seek his fortune! She places in easy reach all those foundation stones of character building, Mrs. Wiggin, the charmer of all ages; Miss Alcott, whose heroines do not desert their youthful admirers when their dresses are lengthened, and back hair done up. Our beloved Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley; and here I would give place lovingly to Mrs. Ewing, Eugene Field, and our own adopted Rudyard Kipling, only they rather reach childhood through the perspective of maturity, looking backward, making us children again.

To a higher shelf she confides the Waverly Novels as the first and best in all the length and breadth of the language, and close by, our Cooper, the pioneer of novel writers in America.

On the top we find, above and beyond all, William Shakespere, "Created of every creature's best." There's magic even in the name, starting ghosts of buried glories, of wars, and rumors of wars. Here at last we can say with the Lotos eaters, "Rest, ye brother mariners, we will not wander more." There is so much that could be said and in short space, that it is as though it would all out at once like ripe cordial from narrow-necked bottle. Here is a whole gamut of heavenly sounds from the bird-like treble of teasing Beatrice or lovely Miranda, all the way down to the profoundest bass of mad Lear, murdered Hector, and the guilty Macbeths. Here is the world's greatest roll call adown the line of thousands of centuries, names that have made and marred the face of history, Achilles, Coriolanus, Julius Cæsar, Fifth Henry. Can there be a doubt that in all this noble line there is wanting a model for the least emulative? The tender chords of child nature, responsive to the faintest touch, thrills with a vibration that lasts as long as life itself when brought into conscious relationship with such examples.

What heaps of riches we store up for our future men and women when we open to them this glorious pathway!

Happiness, as each nature understands it best, is our inalienable right here, as well as hereafter. If, then, we equip these little ones for the vicissitudes of life, and at the same time shed light on the path that must perforce wind through clouded valleys and up weary ways, God knows our best has been accomplished. Asceticism as a part of the Middle Ages, had its uses, but changed conditions and enlightened times call for different training. The pleasures of life, as Lubbock tells us, begin with the duty of happiness, and happiness is God-given. Let us then be generous, and give freely to our children of the only true and abiding happiness, that of the heart and intellect. The greatest joys being those the easiest got at, we have,—Shakespere! The child who leans to the classics and poetry, will find whole years of delight in Troilus and Cressida, and the ten years' struggle that ends in the ignoble overthrow of the bravest man of all time. I recall with a thrill of pleasure a reading of that splendid work with several children whose sympathetic hearts overflowed. When Hector bravely went forth, despite the supplications of his noble spouse, and the ravings of the mad Cassandra, and was overtaken by his ungenerous foe, "was it fair?" was the simultaneous cry, "was it fair to take him in his tent without his armour?" Is any warfare fair? Who can answer even in our own day and generation? Troy had to fall, and the fates despise the means when the end is in view, but for us, we are enlightened, forsooth.

For a stimulus to the imagination, where do we find the equal of Midsummer Night's Dream? It seems to me that the divine Polyhymnia, for that once, outshone the rest of the immortal nine. Such a scene as she spread out, with the assistance of nature's two aptest handmaids, the forest and the full moon, she could do no more. Beckoning folly and all her host of garlanded pleasures, she simply exceeds all bounds. The revel lasts till dawn, the clear white light showing it all as a wandering of the imagination, unfettered by the will, not a nightmare born of ill-balanced living, but a wholesome, unreasonable, honest dream!

There is so much to say of the others, of the Forest of Arden, where Orlando hangs his verse in witness of his love, and Rosalind in her life there,

"Exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

Of rollicking, round-bellied old Falstaff, and his youthful

companion, pleasure-loving Prince Hal, who yet claims his title to royal kingship, and wins his spurs at Agincourt. Or the delicious sorrows of the world's two lovers, Romeo and his Juliet, and a score of others, but time and space forbid. It is impossible, however, to pass without a word of tribute, that greatest masterpiece, that Jove among the lesser gods, Julius Cæsar! Here we rest a spell to place our laurel wreath and ponder on the name of all others that has shown the world how near mankind can come unto perfection. Of him can it be said, "The elements so mixed in him, that nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This was a man!'"

The individual who is said to have read Shakespere for a life time, and only to have read Julius Cæsar because he never could resist it, did no affront to good taste. Scarcely second to Cæsar stands Brutus, who proves himself when he says,

"Let the gods so speed me as I love
The name of honour more than I fear death."

It is with some pride that I can say that it was a child who first awakened in me a sympathy for Brutus, whom Anthony calls the noblest Roman of them all, Cæsar then being dead. In him we find, not a murderer, but what is common to all ages and peoples, a fanatic. History but repeats itself when we read of the struggles of men born out of due time, but who, nevertheless,

"Fear not, sensible failure,
Nor covet the game at all,
But fighting, fighting, fighting,
Die, driven against the wall."

Nothing less than the genius of an Irving can show the world that really and truly Brutus loved not Cæsar less, but Rome the more. Fit parallel to the God-like Cæsar himself, in whom were met and married all the qualities so dear to the youthful idealist. Fearless, "For always I am Cæsar!" Constant,—and ambitious only to be great in the ways justified by honor. Yet was he modest enough, for was not his last anguished cry ample evidence that up, above all earthly desires, he placed the love of his friend: "And thou too, Brutus? then die Cæsar!" For him, more than any other, seem meetly written those lines of Shelley,

"Till the future dares
Forget the past his fate and fame shall be
An echo and a light unto eternity."

—LUCY SINGLETON COLEMAN.

April 17th, 1899.

Richmond, Va.

General Federation News.

THE Reorganization Committee met in Philadelphia, February 15th, with twelve out of the fifteen members present. Mrs. Brock, the chairman of the committee, made a report, in which she stated that fifteen State Federations, representing 94,001 members, are in favor of reorganization, and seven State Federations, representing 26,251 members, are opposed to it.

Almost all Clubs and Federations are opposed to the admission of National Societies to the General Federation.

All but Colorado approve of abolishing the office of State Chairman of Correspondence. All but Delaware, Iowa and Washington favor a per capita dues. A large number favor triennial meetings.

There were two plans of reorganization submitted by this committee, as they could not agree on one.

The majority of the committee, seven, represented the opinion of the minority of the clubs, while the minority of the committee, five, represented the majority of the clubs.

The Chairman, Mrs. Brock, was in the minority.

A PLEA FOR THE STUDY OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

BY THE WOMEN'S CLUBS OF AMERICA.

HERE are in the United States between nine and ten thousand Woman's Clubs, calling together and organizing great groups of women, strong enough and intelligent enough to lift the standard of the nation's life. Nothing can stand, permanently, against this body of public opinion. The side on which it throws itself will be the winning side in our American civilization. Whatever the future may bring as regards the Ballot, the duty of the moment is clear,—women must understand the governing principles of this Republic, must know in what consists the true life of a nation.

If you will look at Col. Wright's July "Bulletin of Labor," in which he gives statistics of these clubs, you will be impressed with the amount of time and interest spent upon slight, or self-centering topics. Surely the moment has come for a change in this respect, for the choice of some noble end pursued in common. The clubs include women of differing political sympathies; therefore, the necessity arises to select a subject which can be treated in a non-partisan spirit, a subject which can bind all the units together, thus creating a great moving force, and also, a subject which touches every development of our political life.

Civil Service Reform answers all these requirements. What more fitting centre of study could there be than a serious examination of that reform which seeks to introduce "The Merit System" into our political life, and to drive out "The Spoils System?"

Recent laws of the United States, and of different States and cities, give us the possibilities of a well-organized, and honest system of public service. We do not ask for anything revolutionary nor destructive, but simply, that an existing body of legislation may be faithfully carried out, or honestly amended, by whichever of the great parties may be intrusted by the people with power. Neither of the great parties has been whole-hearted; each has helped, each has hindered, each has yielded at the moment of temptation. Still, the movement has been steady. State after State, city after city, has swung into line.

In the opinion of every President of the United States since General Grant, and of almost every cabinet officer who has had experience with the law, as well as of a large and increasing body of intelligent and disinterested men and women, Civil Service Reform has given results, already, which prove it to be a purifying and stimulating influence in political and social life, a reform vital to the continued existence of our nation's ideals, if not to the existence of our nation itself.

The Civil Service Reform is fitly called "The Merit System." A position under it can be obtained only by those specially qualified to fill the office, with no preference given for any other reason but special fitness. It is designed to secure the right of any well-equipped citizen, man or woman, irrespective of party, wealth or influence, to serve the people in public office in town, State or nation; to do away with the maxim, "To the victor belong the spoils." We do not say that Civil Service Reform is the cure for all our woes; some are the pains of growing youth. But when you have looked carefully into the subject, you will be surprised to see how much it has accomplished, and how much it promises for the future.

We demand that this country of ours shall be based upon as true an equality of opportunity, as the essential differences of human beings will permit. We demand that no thought of personal interest, of offices, of concessions, shall enter into these constantly recurring political contests, that the great parties which govern shall strive to conquer in the elections that they may bring forward measures that deepen the springs of our national life. Eliminate the whole realm of offices to be given out, uncertain voters to be won by promises, and how the air would clear!

Think how strong a body of public opinion these clubs could create if they pressed, unanimously, this great reform.

We should suggest that the State Federation recommend an earnest study of Civil Service Reform by the different clubs of the State, and should lay before the General Federation at Milwaukee, an appeal for the vigorous examination of this reform by all the State Federations and clubs of the country, thus getting a unity of purpose before which corruption in politics must finally yield.

We firmly believe that our country can take no great onward step until the system of bribery which comes through a "Spoils System" is killed. Our present condition poisons the very springs of political life, and lowers the standard of honesty of even the smallest country town.

Our desire is to bring the subject before the women of the country in some authoritative way, and through the agency of the clubs it can be done normally and logically. These bands of women are pledged, both directly and indirectly, to stand for the higher influences in our civilization, and this reform will seem to them a tremendous agency for good, as soon as they properly understand it.

The Federation might refer to the method pursued by The Concord, Massachusetts, Woman's Club,—to have one or more introductory addresses by men or women identified with this reform; this, to be supplemented by individual or class study, pursued with or without further instruction. It seems wise to begin with the forceful presentation of the subject by an expert, and in each State there are people ready to help. In our own club we had the aid of two members of the Executive Committee of The National Civil Service Reform League, of the Secretary of our State Civil Service Reform League, and of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Reform Club. We are confident that in each club there will be a nucleus of intelligent interest around which good work may gather.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Civil Service Reform League of New York City, of which Mrs. Winthrop Cowdin (15 West 11th Street) is Secretary, has, for circulation, a carefully arranged bibliography of the best essays and books on the history and working of the Civil Service, both here and in England. They have published, in cheap form, Mr. Dorman C. Eaton's "Civil Service in Great Britain: a History of Abuses and Reforms, and their Bearing upon American Politics," an investigation undertaken at the request of President Hayes. The Auxiliary also publishes "A Primer of Civil Service Reform," by Mr. George William Curtis, and "The Reform of the Civil Service," by Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell.

Concord, Massachusetts. Address—MISS PERKINS.

SOUTH CAROLINA AUDUBON SOCIETY.

This department is official and will be continued monthly.
Official news printed here.

List of Officers.

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S. C.

Second Vice-President—Miss Kate Bachman, Charleston,
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Official Notice.

AT the first regular meeting of the South Carolina Society, January 4th, 1900, The Keystone was adopted as the official organ of the Society. All members are urged to make use of this medium, as all the official notices will be contained in it.

CHRISTIE H. POPPENHEIM,
President,
South Carolina Audubon Society.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON, whose name is borne by the Society which is now endeavoring to save from persecution and extinction the birds that he loved so well, was born near New Orleans, La., on May 4th, 1780, and died near New York, 27th January, 1851. His father was a French naval officer, and his mother a Spanish lady, and with them he spent the early years of his life in Santo Domingo.

He soon developed his wonderful talent for drawing and painting birds, and when the negro insurrection drove the whites from the island, he was taken to France, where he became an art pupil of the famous David, the painter of the French Revolution. Returning to America, he lived near Philadelphia until about the age of 17, married early, and removed back to Louisiana with his wife. During all this time he was studying the habits of American birds, and drawing them with an accuracy and fidelity to life that has never been excelled. In 1808 he met, in Louisville, the Scotch naturalist, Alexander Wilson, "the Paisley weaver," who became famous for his great work on American birds. This work is in the Charleston Library, and a glance at it will show the inferiority of the drawings and descriptions alike to those of Audubon. It is said that Wilson was always jealous of his American rival. Audubon became a great friend of Charles Bonaparte, Prince of Musignano, a nephew of the great Napoleon, and himself a scientist and ornithologist of distinction. This nobleman induced our naturalist to publish his invaluable drawings, and the result was the magnificent set of life-sized pictures which were published from 1830 to 1839, in four volumes, at \$1,000.00 per volume. These are to be seen in the Charleston Library. The descriptions were contained in the five volumes of the Ornithological Biography. A smaller edition of the plates, with fuller descriptions, was afterwards published, "Audubon's Birds of America," in seven imperial octavo volumes. In this he was greatly assisted by his friend, the late Rev. Dr. John Bachman, of Charleston, who took a larger part afterwards, with John and Victor

Audubon, sons of John James, in the splendid series of "Quadrupeds of North America." While science has progressed since Audubon's day so as to render necessary some change in classification and terminology, his great life-work remains the standard authority on the birds and mammalia of North America.

—DR. ROBERT-A. WILSON.

Two Victims of Circumstances.

(CONTINUED FROM MARCH.)

I loved her with all the strength and devotion of an unsullied heart; I believed also that she loved me; that she, like myself, looked forward to the time when we would make our mutual vows before the altar. This hope had kept me out of mischief at Yale, had nerved me to refuse the invitations, and sometimes even to resist the jeers of my companions, when urged to join them in some mad frolic or extravagant escapade; every one knows that in a community of young men there will always be some wild spirits, restless under authority, especially if there is unlimited command of money.

I was still in a weak condition, unable to get the physician's consent for me to join my mother and sisters. I had not received any letters for a week; previous letters had told me of constant gaieties, and I longed to participate in them. It had been three weeks since Alicia had written to me. One day, after my lunch, which still consisted of some light soup, with toast and tea or milk, the gentle Sister had handed me a small envelope addressed to me. A single glance told me it was the handwriting of my sweetheart. I was in a dreamy, happy state, betokening convalescence. I tore my letter open eagerly.

The faint fragrance of violets, which was her favorite perfume, was exhaled from the paper. I had always associated Alicia's personality with the modest violet, she seemed always too timid to speak, and yet so beautiful with her violet eyes, her golden hair, her exceeding fairness of complexion, where the lily and the rose rivaled each other for perfection on her damask cheek.

She was the ideal of girlish love, truth and gentleness.

Full of expectant love and joy I read:

"Dear Harry!

I enclose the ring which you gave me as a Christmas present three years ago; although we have never been really engaged, I thought it best to return it to you, as all must now be at an end between us; please send, as soon as possible, my ring, which you took from me at the time, and which I have heard you wore suspended on your heart. I am to be married early in the fall to the handsome Russian Prince, Otto Carl Von Sobieski; he is immensely rich, so papa's fortune was not the attraction. Everybody here raves about him, and I am looked upon as a very fortunate girl; so I venture to hope that my old friend and playfellow will rejoice to hear of my happiness."

The perfumed note fell from my hand. Fair, and false, and cruel, like so many of her sex! And so a leaf in my life was turned down.

The summer swallows had returned; the rushing throngs filled the great Broadway stores; on Wall Street men worked for gold, always gold; their wives and daughters struggled amid the haunts of fashion for precedence over other women.

Late in the season I emerged from the sick room, where a severe relapse had kept me; a light had suddenly died out of my sky; like a man who has been in mortal combat, I still staggered from my blow, and on one thing I was determined,

I would not remain in New York, and I hailed with delight the President's call for volunteers to go to Cuba.

I joined Colonel Roosevelt's Rough Riders as a private. My father gave me ample means to aid in making my condition more comfortable.

I had my share of hardships, however, ate embalmed beef, and many a weary hour I passed. I took part in several engagements, climbed the hills of San Juan, participated in the attack of Santiago, and stormed the embattlements of Morro Castle. By good fortune I escaped both fever and wounds, and in September, 1898, returned to New York. Beautiful women welcomed us on all sides, but among them all, none was so fair to me as the love of my boyhood's days.

My father again spoke to me of the advisability of settling upon some profession, but the love of roaming had taken possession of me, and I was deaf to his entreaties. Dewey's victory at Manilla had aroused new enthusiasm. General Otis was placed in command of our troops at Manilla, and volunteers were again required.

The revolt of Aguinaldo, and his insurgents, gave the United States a new field for operations. I entered the army again, volunteering to go to the Philippines—Company F, 38th U. S. Volunteers.

Amidst the prayers and remonstrances of my mother and sisters, and the "God speed me" of my father, all of whom had crossed the continent to see the last of me, we left the port of San Francisco.

The transport was crowded and the voyage, six weeks in duration; for the first few days I made few acquaintances during my hours of recreation; I leaned over the side, gazing in the direction of that western land which my eyes may never behold again.

Soon I became more accustomed to the surroundings, and one night I was attracted by the appearance of the Sergeant in charge of our mess; his tall and well developed form, his military bearing, his keen, flashing blue eye, his courtly manner, aroused admiration and excited some curiosity. Why? "Such a distinguished looking man should wear only the Sergeant's stripes!"

He was certainly no common soldier, whose fidelity and intelligence, and perhaps gallantry on the field, had elevated him; his upper lip was shaded by a brown moustache, seldom he smiled, but when he did, the parted lips displayed two rows of even pearly teeth.

Stern, cold and inflexible he remained, apparently indifferent to any approaches of a friendly nature. One night, while I was deck watch, I spied the tall form of the Sergeant, leaning over the taffrail; the good ship ploughed on her way, leaving a trail of white foam behind her. The moonlight showed all the grace and ease of his form, which I thought must be that of the trained soldier.

As I walked to and fro my gaze would insensibly linger upon his noble countenance. I fancied an added tinge of sadness was in it. I seemed to feel that here was, like myself, "a victim of circumstances," suddenly he turned, his eye caught my gaze, perhaps he read in it sympathy.

I respectfully saluted, and passed on.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

(No. 2.) **\$100 REWARD \$100**
The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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The Interment of Frau Fröbel.

[A newspaper clipping sent The Keystone by Miss Patty S. Hill, of Louisville, Ky.]

Eisenach, January 11, 1900.

YESTERDAY morning an important celebration took place at the grave of Fröbel, in Schweina. The sun shone brightly over a snow-covered landscape.

At her request, Louise (née Levin) was buried beside Fröbel, her husband. She had survived him forty-seven years and six months. Her remains were brought from Hamburg. In the cemetery chapel a large congregation had assembled, consisting of the Board of Councilmen, the inhabitants, and children from the schools.

After the song, "What God does, is well done," Pastor Engelhardt gave a very appropriate talk, as he stood beside the handsomely ornamented coffin.

The beautiful text was taken from the Book of Ruth, which closes with the words: "Where thou diest, * * * there will I be buried."

The long procession moved slowly up the elevation to the grave.

Immediately back of the coffin walked School Advisor Herr Smith, who had been appointed by his Highness, Duke of Meiningen, as his representative; then followed relatives, and next, the representatives of the Fröbel and Kindergarten Societies.

The bell tolled, as the procession moved, and the church choir received the company.

After the Benediction, and the singing of the hymn, "Jesus my Trust" by the choir, the congregation joining in, Herr Smith laid palms and flowers upon the grave, which were sent by the Duke, with messages of condolence.

Then followed the placing of wreaths from many friends, societies, and others; these came from Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig, Breslau, Kassel, Eisenach, and from Osterode, the birthplace of the deceased. Finally, the youngest children came to the grave, and laid their little bouquets upon it.

Near the house in Marienthal, which the deceased Duke of Meiningen had bequeathed Fröbel as a residence, and where his unselfish life in the service of mankind had closed, rest the two men, who together with the widow, had sown the seed which have struck root in every part of the world. Their work will not perish, but in the new century, may spread still wider the blessings of the past, to which these sowers of good seed belonged.

Book Reviews.

IT has been claimed that we can never attain the great American novel, because the country is too diversified, and we only get great sectional novels.

New England life finds its exponent in Mary E. Wilkins. Ruth McEnory Stuart gives an idea of the life in the far South, while Bret Harte and Hamlin Garland open up to us vistas into Western life. Does any one claim for Mary Johnston that she portrays Southern Colonial life? "Prisoners of Hope" and "To Have and to Hold" cannot be bound down by such a criticism. Miss Johnston gives us the rich, red blood, the high, pure moral, and the stern dignity of the English characters.

The rapid, active, brilliant coloring, and spirited conception of "To Have and to Hold" even excel her other successful novel, "Prisoners of Hope." Manhood, with all that that term implies in the Anglo-Saxon meaning of the word, is

what she presents to us in 'Ralph Percy, and pure, womanly dignity, with unfaltering courage, in Joselyn Leigh. Her conception of a hero is such as to dispel forever the illusion that a woman cannot draw a fine, manly character. No more will Mr. Rochester stalk through fiction as the ideal hero of the woman novelist.

Miss Johnston has shown that a woman can write a novel of adventure with a man's man for a hero, and every reader of her last novel will look with greatest interest and anticipation to her next work. One realizes more fully the popularity of "To Have and to Hold" from the fact that 100,000 copies were sold within a fortnight after its publication.—(Cloth, \$1.50. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, Mass., 1900.)

THROUGH the courtesy of Miss Floride Cunningham, The Keystone has received the annual reports of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, for 1898 and 1899.

This Association was organized in 1854, by a South Carolina woman, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham. Through the able management of its Regents, 1st, Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, 1858-1874; 2nd, Mrs. Lily L. M. Berghman, 1874-1891; 3rd, Miss Justine Van R. Townsend, 1891—, and the various Vice-Regents from different States in the Union, Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, is kept in perpetual care.

The Treasurer's report shows total receipts for 1898-1899, \$29,528.85. Total disbursements, \$17,946.02. Balance to credit general account, \$11,528.83.

The next session of the Council of this Association will meet at Mount Vernon, Va., on May 10th, 1900.

South Carolinians will note with regret the death of their Vice-Regent, Mrs. Lucy H. Pickens, in August, 1899.

As special attention is now being paid to Historical Museums as a means of promoting an interest in American History, no place could be more interesting to the student of Colonial History than the beautiful home of Washington.

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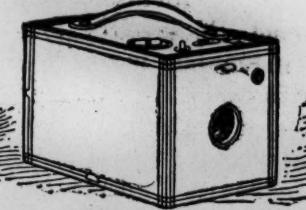
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